California Department of Public Health

Lea Bornstein MD, Chloe Le Marchand MD

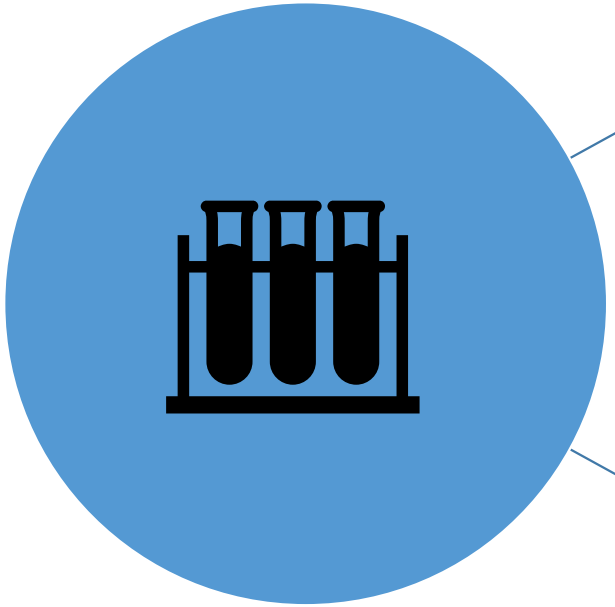
At-Home Tests in Childcare Centers

1/11/2022

Overview

- How to test for COVID-19
- Antigen tests
- At-home test types
- Ways to use at-home tests
- When to test
- iHealth tests
- How to share/report results
- Advantages and disadvantages of at-home tests

COVID-19: How to test?



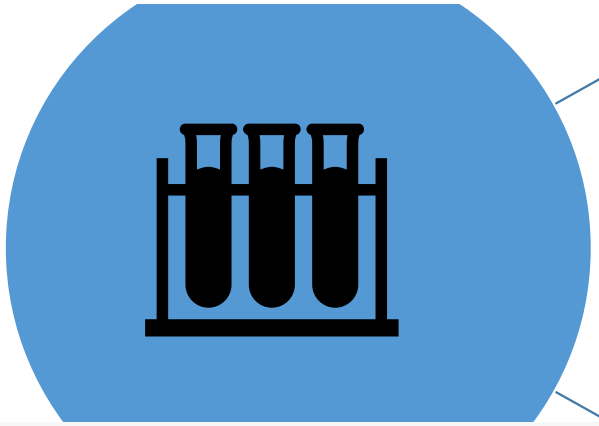
Antigen tests

- Results in 10-30 minutes
- At-home tests catch most people who are contagious
- Work similarly to home pregnancy tests

PCR tests

- Detects very low level of virus before, during, or after symptoms/period of contagiousness
- Must be performed in a specialized lab
- Results in 24-72 hours

Two types of antigen tests: They look the same! What is the difference?



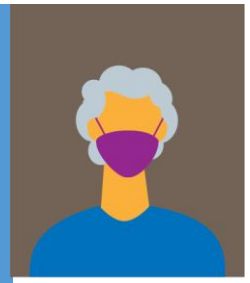
Professional Tests (not this program)

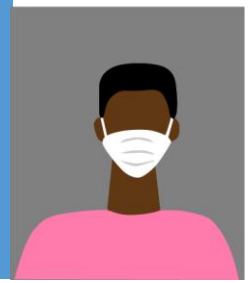
- Regulated heavily, needs a prescription
- Results MUST be reported to the health department
- Can be done at center
- Special rules around who can swab other people

At-Home Tests

- Not regulated and sold over the counter
- Reporting encouraged
- Parent can swab a child if child meets age requirements of test

TYPES OF HOME ANTIGEN TESTS

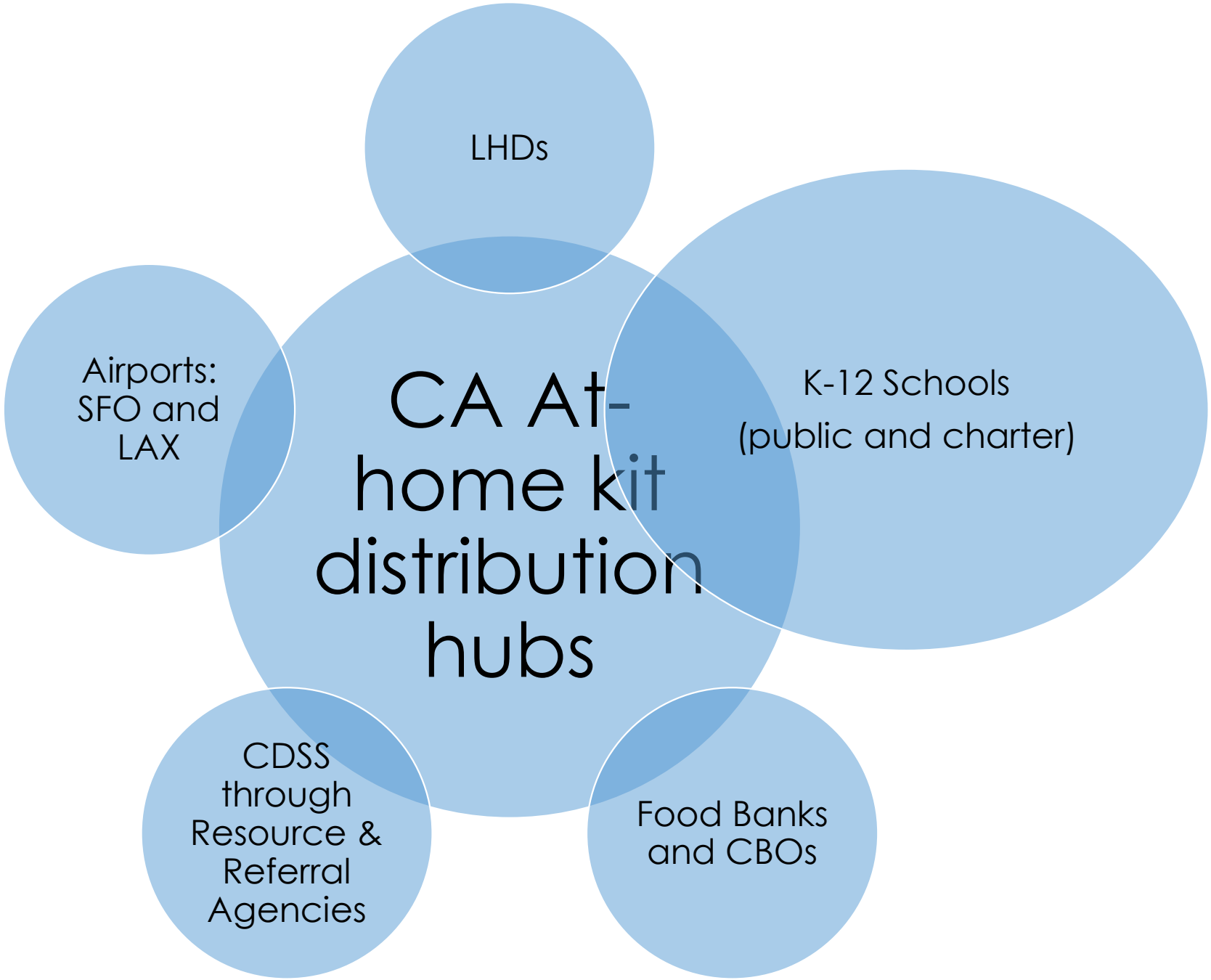




- CDPH has distributed the following at-home tests:
  - BinaxNOW At-Home Test
  - on/go At-Home test
  - CareStart At-Home Test
  - iHealth At-Home Test

CDPH and Home Tests

California COVID-19 Testing Task Force



Ways to use at-home tests

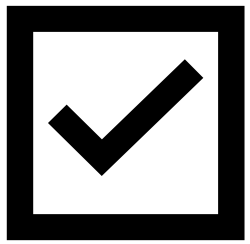
Ways to use at-home tests

- As an additional testing method to lab-based tests
- Use for symptomatic people or close contacts of cases when lab-based testing is not immediately available
- Screening after return from holidays/travel
- Younger children or anyone unable to do the tests themselves
- Distributed in advance when there may be transportation barriers (snow, distance)

When to Test

When to have families or staff take tests:

- When someone has symptoms of COVID-19
- When someone has been exposed to COVID-19
- After a holiday or longer break when people travel
- To shorten isolation period to 5 days when COVID-19 positive

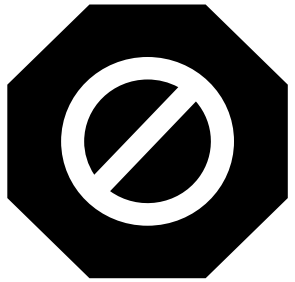


YES!

- Done at home by family members
- Meets age requirement (usually 2 years and up)

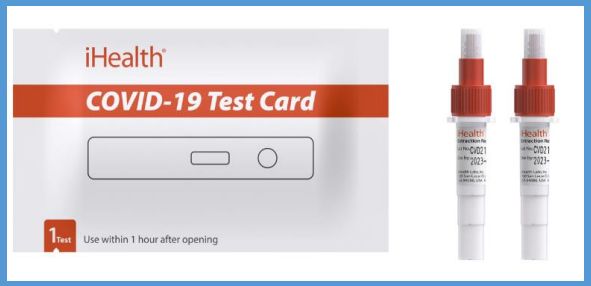
NO!

- Done at the daycare by the daycare provider

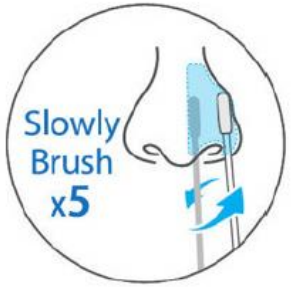


Tests must be done at home.
Check the age requirement.

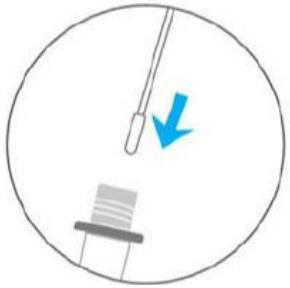
iHealth- How to run a test

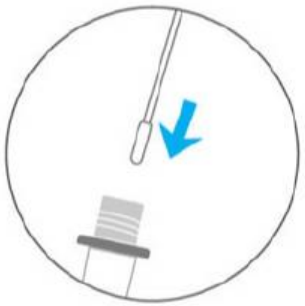


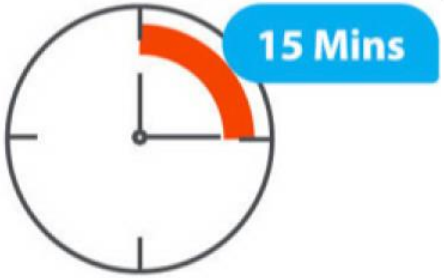
Right Nostril

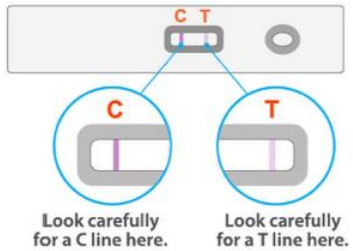


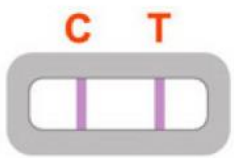
Left Nostril



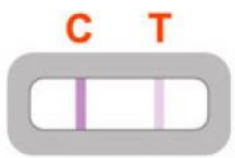








or



Positive

Negative

or

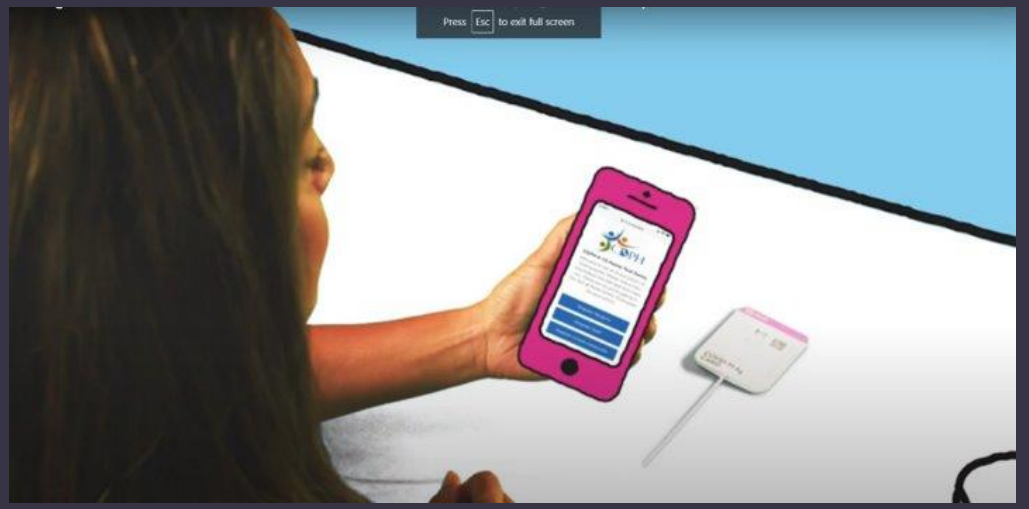
Invalid- Repeat

SOS
Safely Opening Schools

Reporting Results to Local Health Department

- Is STRONGLY encouraged for positive results
- Reporting helps track frequency of cases

Primary



Reporting for Programs

- Parents report via Primary.Health to the Local Health Department https://my.primary.health/l/cdphcbootc
- For CCL, continue to follow normal reporting protocols and report all COVID positive cases

Advantages to at-home testing

Satisfaction

- Convenience
- High demand and participation rates
- People are in control of their own testing

Safety

- People learn if they are positive sooner and can isolate
- Minimizes further exposures
- Potentially preventing additional infections and outbreaks
- Minimizes strain on healthcare system

Challenges surrounding at-home testing

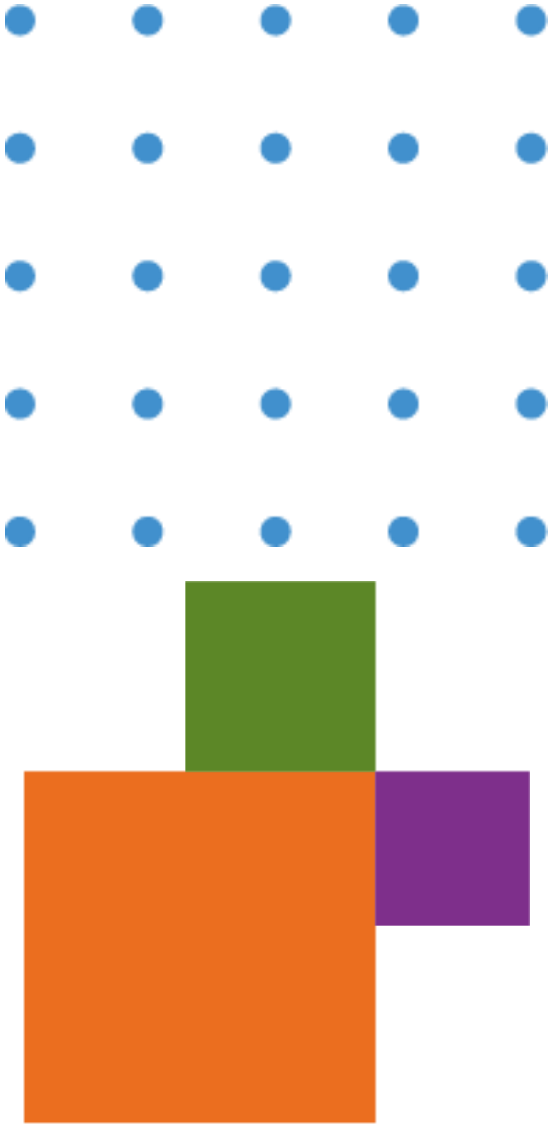
Equity

- High cost, low availability
- Literacy/language barriers

Reliability

- User error (not following testing instructions)
- Honesty (performed test? Shared result?)

Logistics

- What training and other materials are needed?
- How important is reporting?

THANK YOU!